

40. (NEW) The process of Claim 38 further comprising treating said first doped semiconductor area with at least TMAH.

REMARKS

The Office Action Summary for the Office Action mailed May 22, 2003, stated that Claim 31 was objected to. In the text of the Office Action, the Examiner stated on the one hand that Claim 31 was being rejected and on the other hand that Claim 31 was objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In discussing the reasons that Claim 31 was allowable, the Examiner quoted claim language from Claim 32.

Attorney for the Applicants left a telephone message for Examiner Lattin on July 1, 2003, asking for clarification of the Office Action. On July 2, 2003, the Examiner left a telephone message clarifying that he had intended to find Claim 32 allowable and to reject Claim 31. Applicants therefore respectfully understand the discussion of the allowability of Claim 31 in the Office Action as applying to Claim 32.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14-17 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,322,811 (Komuro) under § 102(b) and rejected claims 19, 20, 29-31 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,998,288 (Gardner) under § 102(e). The Examiner also rejected Claim 18 as allegedly being unpatentable over Komuro in view of U.S. Patent 6,474,780 (Kubota) and claims 23-27, 33 and 34 as allegedly being unpatentable over Kubota in view of Gardner under § 103(a).

Applicants respectfully disagree with these grounds of rejection, but are cancelling claims 14-20, 23-31 and 33-35 without prejudice to advance this case to issue.

Based on the Applicant's understanding of the Examiner's position, the Examiner objected to Claim 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base

claim, but maintains that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 32 has been amended for the sole purpose of placing the claim in independent form. The claim as amended is in condition for allowance.

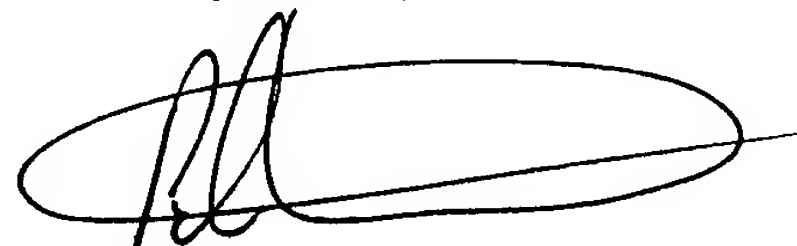
New Claims 36-40 should be entered. Claim 36 is similar to Claim 30, except that it depends from allowable Claim 32 instead of from Claim 29. Claim 37 is similar to Claim 15, except that its dependency is from allowable Claim 32. Claim 38 is similar to Claim 16, except that its dependency is from allowable Claim 32. Claims 39 and 40 are similar to Claims 17 and 18, respectively, except that they depend from Claim 38. Claims 36-40 are allowable because they depend from allowable Claim 32 and include further distinguishing limitations.

The foregoing amendments should be entered pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116(b) because the case is placed in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cancel claims 14-20, 23-31 and 33-35, enter amended Claim 32 and new claims 36-40 and place claims 32 and 36-40 in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

32. (Amended) [The process of Claim 31, further comprising:] A process of making a multi-layered integrated circuit, comprising the steps of:

forming, at a surface of a semiconductor die, at least an insulating layer;

etching at least said insulating layer thereby forming a surface with a first semiconductor area separated from a second semiconductor area by an unbroken insulating area;

doping the surface, such that said surface includes a first doped semiconductor area in the first semiconductor area electrically isolated from a second doped semiconductor area in the second semiconductor area by the unbroken insulator area;

etching a trough in the surface of the first semiconductor area; and

forming a slot in the trough, the slot extending through the semiconductor die.